

ST. AUSTELL,

FEBRUARY, 1901.

TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE

St. Austell Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Annual Report for your consideration, it will be necessary, as on previous occasions, to make a short review of the work accomplished during the past year, of the work in hand, and also of that which is contemplated to be done in the future. Although no work of magnitude has been accomplished, still, a good deal of general Sanitary work has been carried out—notably the improvement and extension of drainage, the procuring of fresh and additional supplies of drinking water; and also the cleansing and disinfecting of foul privies and cess-pits. We have in a great measure done away with the cess-pits, as, after a time, if not regularly attended to, they become a nuisance.

When you consider that during the whole year Zymotic Diseases were in the district, there being no less than one hundred and ninety-five cases notified, and also that non-notifiable Diseases were prevalent—chiefly Measles—you will at once see that a considerable amount of time has been occupied by your Inspector and myself on these matters.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever has been prevalent in the District for the whole year; one hundred and forty minor cases occurring altogether, with only one death. The chief seats of the Disease were in St. Austell and Grampound Districts—sixty cases occurring in the former, and seventy-six in the latter; whilst only five cases occurred in the Fowey District, and eight in Mevagissey District. The Board School at Churchtown, St. Stephens, was closed for some weeks, after which the Disease considerably abated. I regret to state that in this neighbourhood there are still cases being Notified, although every infected house has been visited, and disinfectants supplied. The cases have been so mild that the people do not fully realise the importance of isolation, which is absolutely necessary, no matter how trivial the case may appear.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Nineteen cases of this Disease were Notified, five having proved fatal, nine occurring in St. Austell District, seven in Grampound, two in Fowey and one in Mevagissey District. Several of the cases occurred in the outlying parts of the Districts, five or six hundred feet above the sea level. In country places where there was no drainage the houses themselves were old and not kept too clean. We attributed the outbreak in the Grampound District to the condition of the Sanitary arrangements of the Board School at Whitemoor, in St. Stephens Parish: this has been remedied, since which no further cases have been Notified.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Four cases of Typhoid Fever have been Notified, two in St. Austell District and two in Grampound District—no death having occurred. One of the cases was imported, another was very doubtful, and the other two were very mild indeed. There was nothing unsanitary about any of the houses, and the cases had no connection one with the other. A death from this Disease occurred in the Fowey Cottage Hospital. A foreign sailor from a vessel in the Harbour, suffering from the fever, was admitted into the Hospital, where he died. This case was not notified to me, and it never ought to have been brought into the Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.—Twenty-two cases of Erysipelas occurred; three in St. Austell District, six in Fowey, six in Grampound, and seven in Mevagissey District. Two cases proved fatal at Mevagissey—both were aged persons. The cause of the Disease appeared to be due to a chill, or over-work in feeble and debilitated constitutions.

MEASLES.—Measles were very prevalent, especially at Roche, where three deaths occurred. The Disease was imported. The Board School was at once closed. With a few exceptions the Disease was confined to that neighbourhood. There was also a death in the Fowey District. The case was imported, but the malady did not spread further. I regret to say that within the last month it has been again imported, and about fifty cases have occurred up to the present. The chief place is the higher part of St. Austell Parish (Stenalees): the Board School in that District is closed at present. This Disease is non-Notifiable, but the mortality from it is more than from Scarlet Fever, and in my opinion it ought to be a Notifiable Disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—Whooping Cough is another non-Notifiable Disease, which was very prevalent during the year 1899. There were several cases at the commencement of the year 1900, it having caused four deaths in children under one year of age. During the latter part of the year I have heard of no case of this Disease. There is no isolation Hospital or disinfecting apparatus in any of the Districts.

It may be instructive if I submit to you a table for the past eleven years, showing the death rate from Notifiable Diseases, as the rate from the Zymotic Diseases shows the healthiness of a District, and in a good measure indicates the amount of Sanitary work performed.

Number of cases reported each year, with the death rate :

In 1890	54 cases	Notified,	Deaths 12,	Rate '44	per 1000.
1891	193	"	" 16	" '56	"
1892	134	"	" 8	" '28	"
1893	200	"	" 32	" 1'1	"
1894	117	"	" 23	" 8'4	"
1895	112	"	" 6	" '22	"
1896	153	"	" 8	" '28	"
1897	50	"	" 6	" '22	"
1898	121	"	" 4	" '14	"
1899	216	"	" 10	" '36	"
1900	195	"	" 10	" '36	"

You will see that the rate last year for Notifiable Diseases was about the average, taking the number of cases reported. Adding to non-Notifiable Diseases Measles 4 deaths, Whooping Cough 4 deaths, Cholera 1, and Diarrhœa 5, this will give total number of deaths from Notifiable and non-Notifiable Diseases 24, which would give a death rate of '88 per 1000.

During the past year a house to house visitation has been made in several parts of the district, and the principal defects reported to the Authority. Several Sanitary defects presented themselves to us, viz.—the throwing of slops on to the highway, the closeness of piggeries to dwelling houses, the small rooms and bad ventilation, very often insufficient air space at the back of houses : in some places the houses were old and dilapidated. I hope that in a short time this will be remedied, as the long-looked-for Bye Laws will be shortly in existence.

GENERAL SANITARY.

The drinking water has been improved and extended in several places ; notably at Fowey, where another stream at the higher level has been obtained. Higher Penventinue and Little Windmill reservoirs have been repaired, and there are now four reservoirs in full working order, capable of holding 515,000 gallons of water for storage. These reservoirs supply the higher level. In addition to this there is another reservoir for the lower level capable of holding 90,000 gallons. You will at once see that with fair usage there ought to be no scarcity of water for drinking purposes, the population of Fowey being about 1,600, which would mean about 400 houses. The Shipping has a separate supply, for which a New Reservoir, holding 5000 gallons, has been provided. It was found that there was a leakage in the old pipes laid under the railway. About 200 feet of these pipes was disconnected, and a new three inch service laid. A new pump has been erected at Polmear, Tywardreath.

In the Special Drainage District the reservoir at Mount Charles, St. Austell, has been entirely remodelled, as it had been leaking. The water supply has been further extended at East Hill, St. Austell, where 140 feet of new pipe has been laid, and several new houses connected. One hundred feet of new pipes was laid at Mount Charles, and at Porthpean Road 100 feet 1in. pipes were also laid. At Carclaze there were 1,600 feet of new pipe laid to supply Burlawn and neighbourhood.

At London Apprentice a new pump has been fixed. At Little Polgooth about 200 feet of piping has been laid, and a tank fixed ; this latter item is not altogether satisfactory, and will have our attention at an early date. Two Wells, one at Mevagissey and the other at Fowey have been cleaned and properly protected. I believe the latter Well, commonly called Cobb's Well, is not the property of your Authority ; but the case was so urgent, drainage finding its way into the Well, that we at once took the matter in hand.

Several samples of water have been taken for Analysis,—where it has been found to be impure the wells were ordered to be closed down.

Drainage has been further extended and improved. At Fowey, near Hern's Yard, the outfall has been reconstructed and improved. At Brown's Hill, Fowey, about twenty feet of 12in. pipes have been laid, a manhole built and properly trapped, and several houses will be connected.

In the Special Drainage District the drainage has also been improved and extended, principally at East Hill and Porthpean Road, where about two hundred feet of 6in. pipes have been laid, and connected with several houses, chiefly new ones.

At present we are opening up a level for the purpose of obtaining an extra stream of drinking water at Treverbyn Moor for the St. Blazey and Tywardreath Districts. A Local Government Board Inquiry has been held, and samples of the water taken and sent for Analysis, which was highly satisfactory.

I am pleased to find that at last the Mevagissey Drainage Scheme is to be carried out without further delay ; this is a vexed question, and one that has been a long time under consideration, and should have been carried out ere this.

Negotiations are also being carried out with respect to the Roche Water Supply, which is greatly needed, although every obstacle has been raised by the inhabitants to prevent its accomplishment. If much further delay takes place, I fear the Sanitary arrangement at the Board School will have to be condemned.

The supply of drinking water for Bugle is still in abeyance. Your Authority is probably aware how short it has been during the summer months. Some of the residents joined together and piped a stream in Tonkin's field, which supplied most of the houses in Bugle.

High Street, St. Stephens, Drinking Water has had your attention : Committees met, and decided to make the Landlords provide water for their tenants. This is not always satisfactory for several reasons, viz. : some of the Landlords are simple lease holders, and cannot afford to sink wells. In some instances the sinking of wells has been expensive, consequently the rent would have to be increased. But there is still a more powerful reason—that wells are so

liable to contamination, and so uncertain as to supply, It would be far better and more preferable to pay for say an inch and a half pipe to carry water from a spring in the neighbourhood, and pipe along its course.

Several new houses have been erected during the year: about 120, and Wells have been sunk. This is a very important matter, and your Authority ought to weigh the question carefully before granting Certificates of Occupation.

The New Cemeteries at Charlestown and Roche have been completed, and are ready for interments. An order to close the old cemetery at Charlestown should be obtained. Treverbyn churchyard is very full, and in a very unsatisfactory state, and the Parish Council is moving in the matter. This should not be delayed any longer, and the existing Burial Ground should be put in proper order at once. St. Dennis Churchyard will have our attention during the present year.

Several cases of overcrowding have been reported, and the Council has had the different cases attended to. Although every year there are several new houses built, there is still need for a great many more in some parts of the district.

The Drainage of Grampound has been under consideration, and I hope, during the coming year it will have further attention.

Charlestown, Tregonissey, and Holmbush are parts of the Special Drainage District, and your attention has been called at times to it, especially in my last year's report, and you are aware of the amount of sickness during parts of the year at Tregonissey Lane End, and neighbourhood. Committees have met there, but no practical steps have been taken as yet.

I now direct your attention to the rates of mortality and sickness during the past year. You will see that we have been furnished with new Tables by the Local Government Board which are difficult to fill in, as they are different from those previously sent. I have been able to accomplish it, but it meant a good deal of extra work.

I am pleased to inform you that we had a low death rate—far below the average—the death rate for the year being 15·9 per 1,000. The birth rate is also low, being 29·5 per 1,000. The mortality in children under one year of age has been about the average 3·3 per 1,000.

Table II shows the Birth and Death rates in each district for the last ten years. Comparing the present year with the average of the last ten years, in the St. Austell Rural District you will find that the average number of births has been 337, deaths 194; under 1 year 47; which gives a birth rate of 31·5; death rate of 18·1; under 1 year, rate of 4·3. Whilst for last year the birth rate was 32·6, the death rate 16·5, and under 1 year 3·9. The births have been about the average, whilst the death rate, and deaths under 1 year are less. In the Fowey District the

average for ten years is births 202, equal to rate 29·7; deaths 128, rate 18·8; under 1 year 26, rate 3·8; whilst for last year the Fowey District births were 199, rate 29·1; Deaths 105, rate 15·3; under 1 year rate 2·3; the birth rate was the same; death rate was less, and also those under 1 year. Grampound District birth average for ten years, 179, rate 33; deaths 96, rate 17·8; under 1 year 26, rate 4·7; for last year births 176, rate 32·4; deaths 97, rate 17·6; and under 1 year 24, rate 4·4. Births are a little less, the deaths one more, and under 1 year two less. Mevagissey District average for ten years, births 119, rate 27·8; deaths 61, rate 14·2; under 1 year 10, rate 2·3. Whilst for last year births 81, rate 18·7; deaths 56, rate 13·1; under 1 year 8, rate 1·8. You will see that there is a great decrease in births. Deaths of persons under 1 year are also less. Mevagissey District has the lowest birth rate, death rate, and deaths under 1 year. St. Austell District has the highest birth rate: Grampound District the highest death rate. You will observe that Grampound District has the highest rate for children under 1 year.

Table III deals with the notifiable diseases which are separately referred to in the commencement of this report. You will see that St. Austell and Grampound Districts were by far the highest: notably scarlet fever, 60 cases in the former, and 76 in the latter.

Table IV shews deaths from all causes in the separate districts, and ages.

Table I is not filled in altogether, as it is almost impossible to get at the numbers leaving the several districts and dying elsewhere—and also those that come from other places and die here: but I should say that the one balances the other.

The recent forms are perhaps more accurate for statistical purposes. I append the usual Birth and Deaths Rate since I had the honour of becoming your officer. They may be useful in years to come as a reference.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
In 1880	33·9	21·7
„ 1881	32·9	18·7
„ 1882	31·8	15·9
„ 1883	31·8	18·2
„ 1884	33·9	19·6
„ 1885	32·6	18·6
„ 1886	33·8	19·6
„ 1887	29·7	19·5
„ 1888	31·9	17·2
„ 1889	36·6	17·6
„ 1890	31·6	18·8
„ 1891	32·7	19·4
„ 1892	30·5	15·5
„ 1893	29·8	21·4

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„ 1894	28·7	16·7
„ 1895	31·4	18·9
„ 1896	31·8	14·9
„ 1897	31·3	16·7
„ 1898	31·1	15·8
„ 1899	30·6	18·6
„ 1900	29·5	15·9

You will see that the Birth Rate and also the Death Rate have decreased. The deaths were chiefly in aged persons and very young children. If you take the separate years and compare them with the previous year, you will find that there has been a decrease in each of the districts. The only exception being in the Birth Rate in Fowey District.

1899.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Under One Year.
St. Austell	33·6	20·6	5·5
Fowey	28·9	18·3	5·7
Grampound	38·5	18·5	5·9
Mevagissey	24·3	14·9	2·1

1900.			
St. Austell	32·6	16·5	3·9
Fowey	29·1	15·3	2·3
Grampound	32·4	17·8	4·4
Mevagissey	18·7	13·8	1·8

From the foregoing you will at once see that the Sanitary work has not been neglected in your district, and I only hope that in the future the same zeal and energy will be exhibited by you, as in the past, in carrying out the sanitary improvements in your district, and be an example to other Councils.

In conclusion I would say that this report has been condensed as much as possible, there being a good many minor points omitted for the sake of brevity.

Trusting it will receive at your hand the courtesy and consideration shewn heretofore, and also thanking the Officers connected with me for their readiness and willingness at all times to assist me, and make an onerous duty lighter.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

M.O.H.

John Stephens, Esq.
St. Austell.

